



FEB 21 2008

ACTION-DECISION

MEMORANDUM THROUGH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Under Secretary of Commerce for
Oceans and Atmosphere

SUBJECT: Establishment of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Climate Change Science Program Unified Synthesis Product Development
Committee under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

OS EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
2008 FEB 22 PM 12:30

1. ACTION-FORCING EVENT:

In view of recent events including the release of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report and completion of twenty-one Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) Synthesis and Assessment Reports, discussions with the White House have resulted in a decision the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) should produce a synthesis document that will integrate and evaluate the findings of the U.S. CCSP in the context of current and projected global climate change trends.

NOAA proposes to establish the CCSP Unified Synthesis Product Development Committee (USPDC) under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) to assist in developing the report needed to address this requirement.

2. ANALYSIS:

The Synthesis Product will integrate and evaluate the findings of the CCSP in the context of current and projected global climate change trends, both human-induced and natural. The product will analyze the effects of current and projected climate change on: ecosystems and biological diversity; agriculture, energy production and use, land and water resources, transportation, and human health and social systems.

The establishment of the USPDC will provide a forum for a group consisting of government and non-government scientific experts to engage in deliberations and form a consensus on the content of the CCSP Synthesis Report. This will trigger the requirements of the FACA (5 U.S.C. App. 2). We have reviewed whether the work of this group could fall under the auspices of an existing committee within NOAA, such as the NOAA Science Advisory Board, and have determined that it could not. Moreover, through our on-going work with the other federal agencies involved in this interagency effort, we are aware of no other committees elsewhere in the government that could be used for the work contemplated here and are confident that none exists.

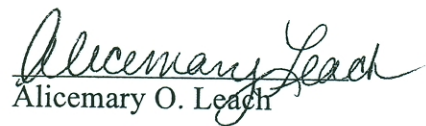
THE ADMINISTRATOR



The Committee will function solely as an advisory body, and in compliance with the provisions of the FACA.

3. RECOMMENDATION: I recommend you authorize the establishment of the CCSP Unified Synthesis Product Development Committee.

Executive Secretariat Clearance:


Alicemary O. Leach

2-29-08
Date

SECRETARY'S DECISION:

I have determined to authorize the establishment of the CCSP Unified Synthesis Product Development Committee 

I have determined not to authorize the establishment of the CCSP Unified Synthesis Product Development Committee _____

I would like to discuss this issue _____